

In re Patent Application of  
**CLARKE ET AL.**  
Serial No. 10/787,515  
Filed: FEBRUARY 26, 2004

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In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A communications system comprising:

a plurality of e-mail account databases, each configured to store ~~for storing~~ information associated with different e-mail accounts;

a central database configured to store ~~for storing~~ location information associating each e-mail account with a respective e-mail account database, and also ~~for storing~~ shared system setup information for accessing said plurality of email account databases;

~~at least one~~ a communications device configured to access ~~for accessing~~ e-mail account information; and

an interface device configured to: ~~for~~

~~receiving~~ receive an e-mail account access request from said ~~at least one~~ communications device for a desired e-mail account;;

~~retrieving~~ retrieve and cache e-mail account location information from said central database for the desired e-mail account, and initially and subsequently interface ~~interfacing~~ said ~~at least one~~ communications device with said respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based ~~thereon~~ upon the email account location information; ; and

~~caching the account location information and  
using the cached account location information for  
interfacing said at least one communications device  
with said respective account database subsequent to  
the initial interfacing of the at least one  
communications device;~~

~~said interface device retrieve and cache also  
retrieving and caching the shared system setup  
information for use by said respective email account  
database to interface in interfacing said at least  
one communications device with said respective e-  
mail account database.~~

2. (Currently amended) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said interface device comprises a caching module for caching the e-mail account location information.

3. (Currently amended) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one~~ communications device has an operating protocol associated ~~therewith~~ with said communications device, and wherein said interface device comprises at least one protocol interface module configured to communicate ~~for communicating~~ with said ~~at least one~~ communications device using the operating protocol.

4. (Original) The communications system of Claim 3 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

5. (Currently amended) The communications system of Claim 3 wherein said interface device further comprises a control module configured to interface ~~for interfacing~~ said at least one protocol interface module with said central and e-mail account databases.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one~~ communications device comprises at least one mobile wireless communications device.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) An interface device for interfacing a ~~at least one~~ communications device with a plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing information associated with different e-mail accounts, the interface device comprising:

a controller configured to receive ~~control module~~  
~~for receiving~~ an e-mail account access request from the ~~at~~  
~~least one~~ communications device for a desired e-mail account,  
~~retrieving~~ retrieve and cache e-mail account location  
information associating the desired e-mail account with a

respective e-mail account database from a central database,  
and initially ~~and subsequently interface~~ interfacing the at-  
~~least one~~ communications device with the respective e-mail  
account database associated with the desired e-mail account  
based upon the email account location information ~~thereon~~; and

a cache ~~eaching module~~ coupled to said controller  
~~and control module~~ configured to cache ~~for eaching~~ the e-mail  
account location information, ~~said control module using the~~  
~~cached account location information for interfacing the at-~~  
~~least one communications device with the respective account-~~  
~~database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least~~  
~~one communications device;~~

the central database further configured to store  
~~storing~~ shared system setup information for accessing the  
plurality of email account databases, and said controller  
~~control module~~ also configured to retrieve ~~retrieving~~ the  
shared system setup information to interface ~~for use in-~~  
~~interfacing the at least one~~ communications device with the  
respective e-mail account database, and said cache configured  
to cache ~~eaching module~~ ~~eaching~~ the retrieved shared system  
setup information.

10. (Currently amended) The interface device of  
Claim 9 wherein the ~~at least one~~ communications device has an  
operating protocol associated ~~therewith~~ with said  
communications device; and further comprising at least one  
protocol interface module configured to use ~~using~~ the  
operating protocol for interfacing said control module with  
the ~~at least one~~ communications device.

11. (Original) The interface device of Claim 10 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) A method for interfacing ~~at least one~~ a communications device with a plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing information associated with different e-mail accounts, the method comprising:

receiving an e-mail account access request from the ~~at least one~~ communications device for a desired e-mail account;

retrieving and caching e-mail account location information associating the desired e-mail account with a respective e-mail account database, and shared system setup information for accessing the plurality of email account databases from a central database; and

initially and subsequently interfacing the ~~at least one~~ communications device with the respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the retrieved e-mail account location information and the retrieved shared system setup information; ~~and~~

~~eaching the account location information and the  
retrieved shared system-setup information and using the cached  
account location information and the retrieved shared system-  
setup information for interfacing the at least one  
communications device with the respective account database  
subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one  
communications device.~~

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-  
readable medium having computer-executable instructions for  
interfacing a at least one communications device with a  
plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing  
information associated with different e-mail accounts, the  
computer-readable medium comprising:

a control module for receiving an e-mail account  
access request from the ~~at least one~~ communications device for  
a desired e-mail account, retrieving and caching e-mail  
account location information associating the desired e-mail  
account with a respective e-mail account database from a  
central database, and initially and subsequently interfacing  
the ~~at least one~~ communications device with the respective e-  
mail account database associated with the desired e-mail  
account based ~~thereon~~ upon the email account location  
information; and

~~a caching module for caching the account location information, said control module using the cached account location information for interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective account database subsequent to the initial interfacing of the at least one communications device;~~

the central database further storing and caching shared system setup information for accessing the plurality of email account databases, said control module also retrieving the shared system setup information to interface ~~for use in interfacing the at least one communications device with the respective e-mail account database, and said caching module caching the retrieved shared system setup information.~~

18. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 17 wherein the ~~at least one~~ communications device has an operating protocol associated ~~therewith~~ with the communications device; and further comprising at least one protocol interface module using the operating protocol for interfacing said control module with the ~~at least one~~ communications device.

19. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (New) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said interface device is configured to receive the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and to use the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-mail account in said respective e-mail account database.

23. (New) The interface device of Claim 9 wherein said controller is configured to receive the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and to use the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-mail account in said respective e-mail account database.

24. (New) The method of Claim 14 further comprising receiving the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and using the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-mail account in the respective e-mail account database.